

**SENATOR KENNEDY ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NO  
CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT**

***KENNEDY WILL HOLD FIRST ROUNDTABLE ON REAUTHORIZATION IN THE SENATE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK***

Washington, DC – Today, Senator Edward M. Kennedy announced that the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will begin a series of hearings and meetings on the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act next week. The Act became law in 2002 and is due for reauthorization this year.

On Thursday, February 8, 2007, the Committee will host a roundtable discussion on school improvement strategies. Senator Kennedy issued the following statement:

“The reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act is a top priority for the American people. The Senate will make necessary changes to improve and strengthen the Act, and ensure its effectiveness for students, parents, and teachers. In the HELP Committee, we will hold hearings, roundtables, and other events to hear from experts, educational leaders, and others who know what’s working in classrooms and what isn’t. I look forward to discussing these issues and moving forward with reauthorization in Congress on a bipartisan basis.”

Participating in the roundtable discussion will be those on the front lines in our schools, working on the state, district and school levels to improve school performance.

Over the next several months, the Senate education committee will meet to discuss:

- § High schools and dropout prevention strategies;
- § Teacher quality;
- § Accountability and AYP;
- § Assessment issues;
- § Supplemental services and choice;
- § Students with disabilities and NCLB;
- § English Language Learners and NCLB; and
- § Strategies for parental involvement and community supports for schools.